

191 arrested in U.K. protests

LONDON (AP) — Hundreds of anti-nuclear protesters staged a six-hour demonstration Friday outside the British Ministry of Defence. Police said 191 people were arrested. Police and Ministry of Defence spokesman said the demonstration was peaceful and did not disrupt ministry business. Scotland Yard said the protesters sat in side roads outside entrances to the ministry building and refused to move. Police dragged them from the roads and took them to police stations. Most were charged with obstruction. Up to 200 people were involved in the demonstration at any one time, said Scotland Yard spokesman Nick Jordan. He said "there was no violence at all." The protesters were demanding British support for a nuclear freeze. They called it a "snowball" campaign of civil disobedience.

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Health minister returns from Geneva

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh returned to Amman on Friday after taking part in the Geneva meetings of the 79th executive council session of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in its capacity as the president of the World Health Assembly (WHA). Dr. Hamzeh said that the meetings discussed several topics among which were the organisation's draft budget for the next two years, the implementation of the WHO programmes throughout the world as well as the health strategies in the member countries.

Israelis against Jordan-Palestine confederation — poll

TEL AVIV (R) — Only one in five Israelis support the idea of a Swiss-style federation with Palestinians and Jordan as a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, according to an opinion poll published Friday. The poll, by the local Hanoch Smith Organisation, was commissioned by a Labour Party lobby known as the "Confederation Group", which favours such a tripartite solution.

Jewish settlements get government aid

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli government provides far greater per capita subsidies for Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank than for residents of Israel proper, a study has shown. Meron Benvenisti, head of the "West Bank Data Base Project," a Jerusalem-based think tank on the occupied territories, said about 80 per cent of the settlements had fewer than 50 families and would collapse without state aid. "If generous public funding were suddenly withheld, the whole structure would collapse," said Benvenisti, a former deputy mayor of Jerusalem and critic of Jewish settlement policy in occupied Arab areas.

'SDI deployment decision years away'

LONDON (R) — Chief U.S. arms negotiator Max Kampelman said Friday a decision on deploying "Star Wars" anti-missile defences was probably years away and was unlikely to be taken by President Reagan in his remaining time in office. His remarks appeared to contradict Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger, who said the United States could be near a decision on partial deployment of the system, known as the "Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) (See page 8).

2 Namibian troops killed by land mine

WINDHOEK, Namibia (South West Africa) (R) — Two Namibian soldiers were killed by a land mine in the South African-ruled territory, the South African Press Association said Friday. Quoting a military spokesman in the capital, Windhoek, it said the blast occurred Thursday but gave no details.

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Baghdad says several Iranian attacks repelled

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said Friday its Third Army Corps repelled several Iranian attacks east of Basra over the past 24 hours, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy and forcing them to flee.

An Iraqi High Command communiqué said Iraqi helicopter gunships flew 86 combat missions over Iranian troop concentrations, destroying men and equipment.

Seven civilians were killed and 40 wounded by Iranian long-range artillery of Basra and the border towns of Sulaymaniyah and Khaqaniyah, the communiqué said.

It also said an Iranian air raid on the northern border town of Rania killed seven civilians and injured 57, including 20 children and 17 women.

Iraq threatened Iran Friday with "devastating punishment" following a missile attack on Baghdad Thursday night which it said killed a number of civilians in a densely populated area.

A military spokesman said: "This crime will not pass without a deterrent and devastating punishment."

He said some civilians were wounded by the surface-to-surface missile — the sixth to hit Baghdad in 11 days — and that several houses and shops were demolished.

For security reasons, the Iraqi authorities usually do not allow the locations of such blasts to be revealed and have not given any precise casualty figures for previous missile attacks this month.

The explosion at 1900 GMT was heard over a radius of about 15 kilometres and witnesses said they believed dozens of people had been killed or wounded.

Hundreds of people, many of them in night dress, fled into streets after the blast, the witnesses added.

In Iran, Tehran Radio said the

Iranians attack British ship in Gulf

KUWAIT (Agencies) — An Iranian warship Friday night fired five missiles at a British gas carrier in the southern Gulf as it steamed toward Kuwait, but none hit their target, Gulf-based shipping sources said.

They said the attack on the 39,932-tonne Isomina, owned by the Royal Dutch/Shell Group, took place shortly after the vessel was forced to leave a British navy escort which suffered engine failure.

They could give no precise

In Washington, President Ronald Reagan on Friday condemned Iran's offensive into Iraqi territory and underscored that the United States views any expansion of the Gulf war as a threat to U.S. strategic interests.

"We remain determined to ensure the free flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz. We also remain strongly committed to supporting the individual and collective self-defence of our friends in the Gulf..." said Mr. Reagan.

The presidential statement was distributed by the White House as Iran launched its sixth missile attack on Baghdad since starting the ground offensive.

Mr. Reagan said the assault on Basra is a reminder of the terrible suffering and loss which the Iran-Iraq war has brought to the peoples of the Gulf region."

Calling the 6 1/2-year war a subject of deep concern to the United States and the entire world, Mr. Reagan said, "it is a war that threatens not only American strategic interests but also the stability and security of our friends in the region."

He reiterated that the United States seeks a negotiated end to the war "without victory or vanquished, leaving intact the sovereignty and territorial integrity of both Iran and Iraq."

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said the United States opposes any decision that would widen the Gulf war.

Told that Turkey has threatened to intervene, in company with Arab states, if Iran prevails in its war with Iraq, Speakes said, "The United States would favour a prompt resolution in which there are no winners or losers. We would certainly resist decisions that may widen the war in that area. We would certainly seek a peaceful resolution, rather than intervention by any other countries."

In ground fighting, Iraq said its forces repulsed an overnight attack on the central front, wiping out Iraq's 58th division.

The Iraqi spokesman said Iran

prevailed in its war with Iraq.

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Shultz reveals fresh CIA bids to forge deal with Iran to free Beirut hostages

WASHINGTON (R) — New revelations of attempts at an arms-for-hostages deal with Iran after President Reagan barred further arms sales to Tehran are keeping his greatest political crisis a-bubbling.

Secretary of State George Shultz's disclosure that Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) officials made fresh bids last month to forge a deal after they were told not to also raised new doubts in Congress over who is in charge of foreign policy.

Congressional sources said Mr. Shultz's disclosure in closed testimony at a CIA attempt to re-open the arms-for-hostages deal at a meeting in Europe on Dec. 6, three weeks after Mr. Reagan barred further arms sales to Tehran.

But some members of Congress are questioning why Mr. Shultz has remained in office during more than 18 months while administration officials secretly carried out major foreign policy initiatives against his wishes.

One democratic congressional source who was at the hearing told Reuters the committee feels Mr. Shultz "has been cut out, not included in the loop" of the foreign policy decision-making regarding Iran policy.

Redman disputed the view that Mr. Shultz was not running foreign policy. "The secretary of state certainly is in control," he said.

He said those meetings were in pursuit of a broader policy of improving relations with an important country, despite the lingering bitterness over 55 Americans having been held hostage for more than a year at the U.S. embassy in Tehran six years ago.

He also defended his refusal to discuss Mr. Shultz's testimony, saying it was top secret and that the secretary would be giving additional testimony in coming

months.

"The secretary is making a conscious, dedicated effort to ensure that his testimony is as complete and accurate as he can make it. It is developing testimony, so at each point it is as full as he can make it," he said.

Mr. Shultz has denied repeatedly that he would resign over the scandal, saying he never deserted Mr. Reagan when he was in trouble.

Some State Department officials, who do not doubt Mr. Shultz's loyalty, say however they believe he has another motive in staying on.

"He's challenged the NSC (National Security Council) influence on foreign policy in previous testimony, now he's clearly challenging the CIA," said one official who asked not to be identified.

In Tehran, President Ali Khamenei said Friday United States officials made a new attempt to contact Iran, but were rebuffed.

Meanwhile the head of an organisation of U.S. diplomats said Friday the Iran affair has left the impression that the United States will pay ransom for hostages.

"The last thing we need is to create the perception that it is profitable to take Americans official hostage," Gerald Lambert, president of the American Foreign Service Association, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The meetings had not discussed arms, he added, but he would not comment on the Dec. 6 session.

The congressional sources

quoted Mr. Shultz as saying an aide representing him at that meeting stopped it when the arms issue arose and that Mr. Shultz had to go to Mr. Reagan in a fury to stop the CIA when he learned its officials had met the Iranians again.

Mr. Shultz's obvious difficulty in controlling contacts with Iran as revealed in his testimony to the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee clearly shocked some of those present.

Although Mr. Shultz opposed the initial arms sales to Iran, which Mr. Reagan has admitted authorising, he was publicly put in charge of Iran policy after the scandal broke.

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Prime Minister Zaid Rifai receives Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke upon Mr. Hawke's arrival in Amman Friday (Photo by Yousef Al 'Alam)

Australian premier in Amman

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke arrived in Amman Friday on a three-day visit for talks with Jordanian officials expected to focus on the Arab-Israeli conflict and means of boosting trade between the two countries.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Cabinet ministers and senior officials received the Australian premier, his wife and the accompanying delegation at Amman airport.

In an airport statement upon arrival, Mr. Hawke hoped his visit will boost economic relations between the two countries.

"Our economic relations are not yet substantial," Mr. Hawke said.

The Australian premier's talks in Amman are expected to cover the latest developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict and recent peace efforts aimed at bringing about a comprehensive settlement

in the Middle East.

His Majesty King Hussein, who returned to Amman Thursday at the end of a European tour which took him to France and Italy, is expected to receive Mr. Hawke on Saturday after the two prime ministers hold an official round of talks.

The Australian premier has earlier stated that his country advocated the principle of the right to self determination by the Palestinian people through the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

However, on the eve of Mr. Hawke's departure on his three-nation tour in the Middle East, his Labour Party government turned down a United Nations request to hold a seminar on Palestine in Australia, according to a press dispatch from the Australia-based information office of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Australia.

High on the agenda of the talks between Mr. Rifai and Mr. Hawke

will be the possibility of increasing the volume of trade between the two countries, which is currently in favour of Australia.

An Australian embassy official

here said recently that his country

was contemplating possibilities of boosting trade exchange between the two countries, including exporting Jordanian rock phosphates, potash and fertilisers to the Australian markets.

Before leaving Australia, the prime minister said he was planning no major diplomatic initiatives.

"I've made it quite clear that I go there to listen and merely to say that if in any way Australia can be of any assistance at any time then that would be forthcoming," Mr. Hawke was quoted by the Associated Press as saying. "I go there not to assume any grand role as mediator or anything like that."

Mr. Hawke will also visit Israel and Egypt. He also will stop briefly in Cyprus and address an economic forum in Davos, Switzerland.

He returns home Feb. 3.

Israelis

question

Al Fajr editor

Abandoned newborn baby found in Zarqa

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Police were Friday investigating the case of a newborn girl found abandoned at a building site in Zarqa. The baby girl is being cared for at the government hospital until her two parents are identified.

A Zarqa police source said the baby girl's unmarried mother was traced soon after the baby was found, but the infant's father was still being sought. Police investigators say they have an idea who the father might be as they wait for the results of medical tests, expected to be completed Saturday, to help identify the father.

Police sources confirmed Mr. Kuttab was questioned, saying they wanted to establish whether the interview, conducted in Iraq, might be considered incitement.

After Al Fajr and the Arabic-language daily of the same name published the interview last month, the Israeli authorities banned the daily from distribution on the West Bank for two weeks.

Sales in East Jerusalem were not affected. Both publications support the PLO.

Interviews by Mr. Arafat to foreign publications are routinely reprinted in the East Jerusalem press but the Al Fajr interview was thought to be the first granted by the PLO leader to an Arab publication printed in Israeli-held areas.

Meanwhile in Gaza Strip Palestinian sources said Israeli soldiers shot a Palestinian teenager in the leg during a demonstration in a refugee camp Thursday.

Musabah Mahmoud Hamdan, 17, was taken to a nearby hospital suffering from moderate wounds, according to hospital officials and the Palestine Press Service, a news agency which monitors events in the Israeli-occupied territories.

But a military spokeswoman in Tel Aviv denied the teenager was shot, saying he was wounded in a fall while being chased by soldiers.

"He fell and was hurt. There were absolutely no weapons involved," said the spokeswoman.

The Socialist premier, who

information until the case has been solved.

Should the baby's father still remain unidentified, then the police will have to hand the infant to the Marka-based Umm Al Hussein Orphanage. Until the infant will remain at the Zarqa government hospital.

According to a well placed source, the Zarqa Government Hospital's paediatric ward receives one such case every ten days, quite a high rate compared to other areas in the Kingdom.

Most of the foundations are admitted to the hospital for protection until concerned authorities solve their cases by either sending them to their parents (if known) or admitting them to one of Amman's orphanages, the source, who asked not to be quoted by name, told the Jordan Times.

"Once the baby's father has been identified, both parents must get married and subsequently claim custody of their infant," the police source, who asked for anonymity, told the Jordan Times. He declined to reveal further

details.

"Such cases are commonplace. Two days ago a foundling was found in Amman and another in Irbid," the police source said.

Greece ready to discuss new pact for U.S. bases

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Premier Andreas Papandreou, told parliament on Friday he is willing to start talks on future of U.S. military bases in Greece after the current agreement expires in 1988.</p

Kuwait mediating in Chad dispute before OIC summit

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Kuwait is mediating between Chad and Libya as a possible prelude to a pan-Islamic bid to stop fighting in northern Chad, delegates to an Islamic foreign ministers meeting said Friday.

They said Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah had met the foreign ministers of the two countries to prepare for a debate on the issue at the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) summit opening on Monday.

Chad has reported heavy fighting since the beginning of the year in the north, where it says thousands of Libyan troops are stationed in support of rebel forces.

Delegates said Chad successfully placed the issue on the summit agenda in preparatory meetings earlier this week but Libya was maintaining its position.

They said Sheikh Sabah was working hard to clear up the dispute so it would not obstruct broader items on a summit agenda headed by the Palestinian problem and the Iran-Iraq war.

Asked Thursday night if the OIC might undertake a peace

initiative on Chad, Kuwait's Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Suleiman Majid Al Shaheen told reporters it was too early to say, but "the concern of all members is the discussion of peace wherever the location."

Delegates said that if Sheikh Sabah was able to convince Libya to participate in a summit discussion on the issue, the OIC could consider a mediation bid.

Meanwhile, a special envoy of Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has warned Thursday that Libya would "intervene directly" in the Chad fighting if France and the United States continued to support President Hissene Habre.

Abdul Kader Baghdadi delivered a personal message from Col. Qadhafi to Algerian President Chadli Benjedid and later told reporters that the Chad conflict is "a purely African question which must be settled without the intervention of colonialist or imperialist forces."

Peres puts conditions for Soviet participation in Mideast conference

TEL AVIV (R) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres indicated Friday he would agree to Soviet participation in an international forum to discuss Middle East peace even without diplomatic ties between the two countries.

But Mr. Peres, interviewed by an Israel Radio reporter during his current visit to London, said Moscow would first have to liberalise its emigration policy for Soviet Jews.

Arab states have demanded Soviet participation as a key-condition to resuming U.S.-brokered peace contacts with Israel.

Asked about the Soviets joining a peace conference, Mr. Peres said, "were the Soviets to open wide the gates of the Soviet Union, I confess I would consider agreeing to a move which would be similar in importance. I find nothing more important than

French intelligence officers in the Chad capital, N'Djamena, estimate that some 5,000 Libyan regular troops already are deployed in Chad against the combined forces of Mr. Habre and former rebel leader Goukouni Oueddei.

The Libyans have never officially admitted their military presence in Chad.

Mr. Goukouni, a former Libyan ally and head of a Libyan-sponsored puppet regime in northern Chad, last October quarreled with Col. Qadhafi and abruptly changed sides in the land-locked African nation's 20-year-old civil war.

Mr. Baghdadi said Col. Qadhafi favoured the withdrawal of all non-African forces from Chad and their replacement by an African "peaceforce." Such an arrangement would oblige France to withdraw its 1,500 paramilitary troops backing Mr. Habre's forces while allowing the Libyans, as Africans, to remain in Chad.

"If the flow of American and French weapons and the intervention of these countries continues in Chad, Libya will take the necessary measures," Mr. Baghdadi said. Asked to explain

these measures, he said, "they include (Libyan) action to intervene directly in Chad."

The security of Chad is very important to Libya, which can not tolerate that non-African powers should impose their will there," the envoy said.

Algerian officials said he conferred with Mr. Benjedid on the Chad conflict but they did not elaborate. Mr. Benjedid later left for Syria on an official trip which is also scheduled to take him to India and Bangladesh.

In N'Djamena, Information Minister Moumine Togo Hamidi claimed that the Zouar region of the Tibesti Mountains had been "completely cleared out" of Libyan forces, with government troops killing 193 Libyans and capturing 22 in Zouar Wednesday.

Chadian casualties were 10 dead and 21 wounded, Mr. Hamidi said. He claimed the Libyans lost many vehicles, including 11 heavy tanks.

The small post is a key position on main tracks leading north into Libya, and the two sides have been fighting around it since early December.

Hungary not seeking to renew ties with Israel

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — Despite signs of improving relations between Israel and some Soviet Bloc countries, Hungary has no immediate interest in renewing diplomatic ties with the Jewish state, the state-run Magyar Hirlap newspaper said Friday.

The government daily quoted Communist Party official Jozsef Gyoerke as saying such a move "is not timely, whatever some Israeli quarters might say."

Mr. Gyoerke, deputy head of the party's Foreign Affairs Department, did not explain whom he meant in Israel.

The two, who met for an hour and 20 minutes, also covered East-West relations and Mrs. Thatcher's planned trip to Moscow in late March.

Mr. Peres came to London Wednesday at the start of a week-long visit to European capitals.

MELILLA party calls off pro-Thatcher rally

the Spanish government may relinquish. Morocco has said the enclaves should be returned when Spain regains sovereignty over Gibraltar.

King Hassan made the proposal in a message to King Juan Carlos which he gave to Spanish Interior Minister Jose Barrionuevo at the end of a two-day official visit to Morocco Wednesday night, the agency said.

It said the Moroccan king had received Mr. Barrionuevo and "discussed at length the anachronistic character of the

situation in the Praesidios (Spanish enclaves) and stressed the dangers to which it would expose relations between the two countries if the situation were not brought to an end."

In his message to King Juan Carlos, King Hassan proposed that a committee be formed to examine the question of the enclaves, "a solution of which ought to be found to safeguard Morocco's indefeasible rights and Spain's vital interests in the area," he reportedly said.

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Home news

British Council director leaves today after talks on cultural ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — British Council Director General John Burgh is due to leave Jordan today after a four-day visit during which he held talks with officials on cultural and educational ties between Jordan and the British Council. Mr. Burgh, accompanied by British Council representative in Amman David Latifa, on Friday visited the ancient city of Petra.

On Thursday Mr. Burgh said that the British Council is keen to promote cultural ties with Jordanian educational and cultural institutions. Speaking during a press conference held at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel, Mr. Burgh said he and Jordanian officials discussed the subject of promoting the use and teaching of English, teaching computer science in schools and the presentation of British Council books to Jordanian institutions.

Mr. Burgh said that the British Council started off with a £5,000 budget in 1934 and now has a £210 million budget to cover the cost of cultural activities in 80 countries around the world. He said that the British government covers 75 per cent of the British Council's annual budget.

Earlier on Thursday, Mr. Burgh visited the Jordan National Museum of Fine Arts and was briefed on its contents and cultural and artistic activities. Mr. Burgh also visited the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) and met its director Mohammad Saleh Al Kelani whom he presented a collection of books as a gift from the British Council. In return Mr. Kelani presented Mr. Burgh with the WAJ's shield.

Mr. Burgh also held discussions with Minister of Information Mohammad Al Khatib on cooperation between Jordan and the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

He also visited the University of Jordan and held talks with its president, Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali, on academic links and cooperation, especially in post-graduate studies.

Kuwaiti students arrive with aid for refugees

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the national students union in Kuwait arrived in Jordan on Friday for a week-long visit during which they will tour Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan with the aim of examining the conditions of the camps' inhabitants and extending assistance to them.

Speaking during a press conference on Friday at the Regency Palace Hotel to review the donations which the union has made to Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan and Lebanon, the union's vice president Hmoud Fahad Al Qasim, who is heading the Kuwaiti delegation, said that the Palestinian cause is the Arabs and Muslims' main cause. He also outlined the union's role inside and outside Kuwait and its continuing efforts to support the Palestinian people and to help them in their confrontation of the Israeli enemy.

Researchers find Jordanians' caffeine intake to almost double consumption in U.S.

By Najwa Najar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Until recently, the consumption of caffeine in Jordan had not been investigated although the consumption of beverages which contain caffeine has long been part of the Arab social tradition.

According to a recent study conducted in the Kingdom, Jordanian consumption of caffeine was found to be almost double the average intake of caffeine in the United States.

As well as its contribution to health hazards, caffeine has several therapeutic uses; and although doctors say that moderate amounts of caffeine are beneficial, they added that Jordanians' consumption of caffeine is considerably high.

It is a widely-held belief that coffee was discovered in the second period of the Stone Age in this part of the world. The legend behind this belief is as follows: Shepherds reported that goats which had eaten the berries of a certain plant had a gambolled and frisked about all through the night instead of sleeping. A superior in a monastery, aware of the long nights of prayer, instructed the shepherd to pick the berries in order to make a beverage from them. Hence the discovery of coffee.

The seeds of *coffeea arabica* (for coffee), the leaves of *thea camellia* (for tea), the seeds of *theobroma cacao* (for cacao), and the nuts of the *cola nitida* tree (for cola drinks) all contain caffeine. The popularity of these caffeine containing beverages has been the long-held belief that these beverages elevate the mood, decrease fatigue and drowsiness and increase the capacity for work. Studies during the first half of this century have confirmed these beliefs and have revealed that caffeine possesses other important pharmacological properties as well.

Dr. Abdulkarim S. Salhab, Dr. Hamezeh H. Elayan, and Dr. Suhail M. Zmeili from the Department of Pharmacology, the Faculty of Medical Sciences at the University of Jordan, conducted a study on caffeine consumption in Jordan and established the amount of caffeine found in various beverages and the effects of caffeine.

Amounts of caffeine in tea and coffee

The results showed that 170 ml or a large cup of regular, instant coffee (Nescafe) contains 122 mg of caffeine, whilst tea, the more

Desert locust swarms no longer threaten Jordan

By Rama Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Desert locusts, which have crossed into the Arabian peninsula from Sudan, no longer pose a threat to Jordan as Saudi Arabia has reported that it has brought seven swarms under control. Minister of Agriculture Marwan Al Hmoud said Friday.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Hmoud said that he had received a cable from the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) regional office in Riyadh informing Jordan that seven locust swarms had been controlled in Saudi Arabia.

A locust swarm can have an area of more than 2.6 square kilometres with 50 million insects — each five centimetres long — capable of devastating 100 tonnes of vegetation a day.

Describing the situation in Jordan as "very safe and reassuring," Mr. Hmoud said the ministry was still coordinating with neighbouring countries which had been affected by the desert locusts.

Earlier reports reaching here

said that desert locusts, breeding at alarming rates in Sudan, have spread across the Red Sea to the Arabian peninsula and could threaten South Asia.

The report, which quoted FAO officials, warned that if locust swarms got out of control, they could reach India and Pakistan and might affect Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Iran and Kuwait.

Mr. Hmoud told the Jordan Times that locust breeding occurs every year but that numerous campaigns launched to combat the grasshoppers have not managed to eradicate the swarms completely. Jordan was first hit by desert locusts in 1957 and another time in the mid-sixties.

Replying to a query over Jordan's technical capabilities to combat locust swarms, Mr. Hmoud said Jordan only had one air spraying helicopter. However, he said that if Jordan ever needed any help in this regard, Saudi Arabia would provide assistance. According to agriculture experts, Saudi Arabia has some of the region's most advanced locust control equipment.

PSD registers fewer murders in 1986 but notes rise in crime among youth

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) last year registered a total of 19,618 different crimes in the Kingdom and out of this number 64 were murders, with most of the people involved aged between 18 and 27. PSD Director General Abdut Hadi Al Majali said on Thursday. He said that most of the murders were motivated by personal disputes, family problems and revenge but, he said, that in general last year's murder figures registered a drop compared to the previous year in which 81 murders were committed.

Lt.-Gen. Majali was addressing a meeting of Muslim preachers and ulema whom he urged to intensify their efforts and to cooperate with the PSD in order to stem crime and eliminate its causes through their sermons at mosques and their religious guidance.

A high number of frauds were committed by people employed in private businesses, adding that crimes of embezzlement and fraud have been on the increase over the past three years, registering 378 in 1986 of which 32 were committed

by females. He said most of these crimes were due to bad economic conditions and financial problems.

Thefts, robberies

Jordan last year registered 4,269 thefts and robberies and most of those involved in them were labourers or unemployed people aged between 18 and 27. Lt.-Gen. Majali pointed out. He also said that a lack of public awareness concerning safety measures at home and business encouraged robbery and theft.

He said that 1986 witnessed 549 immoral crimes in Jordan and these included rape, adultery, kidnapping and mis-behaviour in public, and all those apprehended were found to be aged 18 to 27, and most of them were unemployed.

The young generation is more likely to commit such crimes, he said, due to a lack of proper guidance.

Stray bullets

Last year, Lt.-Gen. Majali

continued, also witnessed the death of 71 persons and 513 injuries from guns being fired during festivities and as a result of people tampering with firearms.

The PSD director went on to say that 13,701 road accidents occurred in the country over the past year causing the death of 362 people and injuries to 7,539 others and the ratio stood at 16 deaths for every 10,000 vehicles in the Kingdom. Lt.-Gen. Majali pointed out that the number of deaths from road accidents registered 24 for every 10,000 vehicles in 1985 and said that this is encouraging and reflects the results of PSD measures and public awareness.

Lt.-Gen. Majali spoke about the PSD's programmes and objectives and said that new measures being adopted by the PSD will greatly boost cooperation between the security services and the public.

Under secretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi was among those present at the meeting.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Three die in week's road accidents

AMMAN (J.T.) — Three people were killed and 133 others were injured in 256 road accidents in the Kingdom over the past week, according to the Public Security Department (PSD). In a statistical bulletin, the PSD said that 153 accidents occurred in the Amman region while the rest took place in Irbid, Zarqa, the badia, Ma'an, Karak, Aqaba, Balqa Tafileh and Mafrqa areas. But it noted that the number of deaths in the past week dropped five per cent compared to the previous week's figures while the number of injured rose by 8.9 per cent.

Jerash girl dies from burns

AMMAN (J.T.) — A four-year old girl died in Jerash after suffering burns in a fire at her family's home, according to a report in the Al Dustour Arabic daily. It was also reported that a 50-year-old man died at Husseinieh, near Ma'an, after being shot by a stray bullet fired unintentionally from a hand gun. Al Ra'i Arabic daily reported an accident in which a fuel truck, owned by a Kuwaiti, skidded along the Desert Highway and overturned. Nearly 47 tonnes of its load of vegetable ghee were spilled on the road and the driver was badly injured.

Israel confiscates 42,264 dunums of land

AMMAN (Petra) — The Israeli occupation authorities have confiscated 42,264 dunums of land in the occupied West Bank during the past month, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Ministry of Occupied Territories' Affairs. The bulletin said that Zionist settlers attacked 19 Arab citizens during December 1986, injuring nine, burning six homes and uprooting 290 trees and smashing 23 cars owned by Arabs in the occupied territory.

Consultants present soil map report

AMMAN (J.T.) — Consultants from the Institut Géographique National (IGN) of France have presented a draft report to the Ministries of Agriculture and Planning following their preliminary study for a proposed project to compile a comprehensive soil map and land survey of Jordan, according to a report in a bulletin issued by the European Community Commission in Amman.

Jordanian-Iraqi joint company buys AMPCO plant

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The public ownership of a Jordanian and an Iraqi factory will be transferred to the Joint Jordanian-Iraqi Industries Company (JJC) on Saturday, to pave the way for the immediate execution of the organisation's first two schemes for processing tomatoes and pickling vegetables.

The Al Arda tomato plant, run by the Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company of Jordan (AMPCO), and the Iraqi government-owned vegetable pickling plant were bought by the JJC for one million Iraqi Dinars (JD 250,000) each.

Under secretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi was among those present at the meeting.

Mr. Saqqaf, who also is under-secretary at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, said operations at the newly-purchased factories would start in the very near future.

He could not state a fixed date for actual operations but said things will crystallise at the end of the two-day board meeting. The JJC was set up more than two years ago with a paid up capital of JD 20 million, contributed equally by the Jordanian and Iraqi sides. Two million shares at the cost of JD 10 each were sold to the private sectors in both countries.

The Iraqi-based pickling

JCFC on its feet after government exemptions

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government has borne the bulk of the financial burden resulting from last year's merger of the Kingdom's two cement industry companies under the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC), according to the company's Director General Khalid Al Thaer.

By exempting the newly-merged company from income tax and social services between 1986 to 1990, the government has helped the JCFC's financial status following the merger, Dr. Thaer said on Friday.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Thaer said that without the government help, the JCFC may have had to pay approximately JD 23 million in interest rate repayments if it had had to resort to foreign borrowing. However, the government's gesture of exempting the company from production fees and value added tax, which together would amount to JD 57.5 million over the coming five years, has helped the company to avoid external

The company has set a target of distributing annual dividends at a rate of six per cent to all shareholders, according to a recent announcement.

Dr. Thaer said that the feasibility study for the merger last year between the SCC and the JCFC made it a priority point not to affect the shareholders' profitability in either company.

Established in 1981, the former SCC sustained heavy losses in its first years of operation as a result of marketing problems and a drop in the price of cement on world markets. The SCC has two production lines, each with a production capacity of 1,000,000 tonnes annually.

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Israel steps up propaganda

ISRAELI Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir himself took part Thursday in a propaganda campaign directed against Jordan when he announced that any move to achieve peace in the Middle East depends on Jordan which should now enter into direct negotiation with Israel. This statement is meant to show that Jordan was responsible for the current deadlock in the peace process. But Shamir and his colleagues realize too well that Jordan is adhering to the idea of holding an international conference to arrive at a just and durable peace and to put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict and they know that Jordan cannot enter into unilateral negotiations with the Jewish state because it realises this would not lead to a permanent settlement. The Israelis realise that the Arabs want the international conference to implement United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and for this reason, Tel Aviv does not want such conference. These resolutions have guarantees for an Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied since 1967. The Israeli campaign against Jordan was pursued by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in his meeting with the British prime minister in London on Thursday. The meeting was designed to persuade London to take steps for drawing Jordan and Israel together, though Peres realises that this can not be achieved since Jordan adheres to pan-Arab agreements on the Middle East question. Israel should realise that Jordan has no separate position from the Arab Nation and therefore, cannot have separate talks with Israel.

Al Dustour: Israel undermines peace moves

ISRAEL'S Foreign Minister Shimon Peres can not deceive any one when he says his current European tour is designed to find alternatives for the proposed international peace conference. Peres, it should be emphasised, is determined to undermine any attempts for reaching a durable and lasting peace between the Arabs and Israel. He in fact continued to put obstacles in the path of peace though at present he tries to show the Europeans that Israel is seeking peace from another angle. Peres realises that seeking alternatives to the proposed international conference is in itself a clear show of rejection for peace that could come from such conference, which has been accepted by many European and Arab countries. Rejecting the idea of an international conference is rejecting the idea of a durable peace based on justice, and this is what Israel wants to achieve in order to perpetuate its occupation of Arab land. To underline his total rejection of the idea of peace Peres said at the outset of his trip to Europe that the Soviet Union should allow all Jews to emigrate to Israel before Israel agrees on Moscow's participation in an international conference. Israel wants to impose its will on other nations, get more human elements to ensure further expansion into Arab lands and at the same time continue to occupy Arab territory.

Sawt Al Shaab: Full agenda for summit

THE first meeting of the Islamic foreign ministers in Kuwait opened up all the issues that have plagued Arab and Muslim nations for so long. The foreign ministers realise in advance that these issues will cause heated debate and therefore, they should try to minimise differences as much as possible and come up with resolutions for ending the Gulf conflict. They are meeting in Kuwait where they can hear the sound of the battle, raging along the Iran-Iraq war front, and therefore they ought to realise that their resolutions and their decisions to be submitted to their heads of state on Jan. 26 should be ready for implementation. This important conference should come up with final decisions that can serve the interests of the Arab and Muslim peoples. We are encouraged by the Kuwaiti foreign minister's statement to the foreign ministers meeting in which he called on Iran to stop the war and respond to the calls of peace. There is no doubt that the foreign ministers attending the meeting will join Kuwait in its call and take effective steps that would ensure an end to the conflict. The coming summit conference ought to respond favourably to these calls and also look into measures for finding solutions to all other questions of concern to the Arab and Islamic nation.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Israel threatens Iraq

ISRAEL has openly issued a threat to Iraq and said that it will deal a blow to that country's air force because it does not allow any Arab country to have sufficient air power that can threaten Israel. The threat came from the Israeli air force chief following the Iraqi air battles with Iran which proved Iraq's superiority that might one day be a threat to the Jewish state. This open threat at the hearing of the leaders of the Arab and Muslim countries, holding a meeting in Kuwait, should make it clear to everyone that Israel constitutes the real threat for the Arabs and Islam alike, and that they should embark on a strategy for confronting this danger. Israel has shown that it harbours intentions for interfering in the current Gulf war and for raiding Iraqi positions as it did when it raided the Iraqi nuclear plant. There is no doubt that after witnessing Iraq's super quality in the fighting against Iran, the Israelis are fearing an Iraqi attack on Israel once the Gulf conflict has ended. For this reason Israel is interested in seeing this war continuing and Arab and Islamic countries' resources drained and their power lost in vain.

Al Dustour: Iran rejects peace drive

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein has addressed the Iranian nation, calling for an end to the war and the start of peace negotiations. In his five-point peace plan, the president meant to make his voice clear to the Iranian leaders too, but these have closed their ears to any call of peace and they totally rejected all ideas about a withdrawal from areas they occupied in the current conflict and above all they refused to conclude a peace agreement with Iraq. The peace call issued by Iraq is very significant, coming on the eve of an Islamic summit conference in Kuwait which is being organised by the Organisation of Islamic Conference that had earlier mediated in the war. Iraq has issued this peace call from a position of strength, offering the summit meeting a chance for embarking on meaningful efforts to end the conflict and underlining Iraq's genuine desire for a permanent peace. Any failure on the part of the coming summit to end the conflict would mean further weakness for the Arab and Muslim nation in general and the Organisation of Islamic Conference in particular.

VIEW FROM AMMAN

The United States, Iran and the Israeli connection

FOR at least six centuries before the advent of the Christian era when Cyrus established a Persian dynasty with Zoroastrianism as its religion, Iran had a distinctive national culture and civilisation. For only short historical periods was Iran, called Persia until 1935, not an independent political entity. Under Alexander the Great and the Seleucids, and then after the Battle of Nehavend in 642 when it came under the influence of Islam. Between this date and 1502 when the Safavid dynasty was established, Iran's fortunes fluctuated between independence and dependency. The Safavid dynasty was followed by the Qajar which lasted from 1252 until 1925 when Reza Shah, later crowned Shah-i-Shah of Iran established the Pahlavi dynasty lasting until 1979 to be replaced by the Islamic Republic of the Imam Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

It is thus that Iran's culture, heritage, language even religion was, and remains, a distinctive one from that of its neighbours to its north, west, south and east. Alexander, followed by many other conquerors, Napoleon among them, coveted Iran as a prize not only in itself but as a way-station to the Indian subcontinent. The Iranian spirit of independence, often its belligerency, but more often its mastery in the art of diplomacy as well as good luck, kept the country as a distinctive independent or semi-independent entity. From 1800 on, and with only brief periods, its independence was maintained against the sometimes terrific pressure from its northern neighbour Russia, later the Soviet Union, and by the West. Since the days of Tzar Peter

the Great Russia has been pushing further south in the hope of reaching the "warm waters". Britain until 1945 and then the United States were — and except for the very brief period of 1979-1981 — and will remain, the natural ally of Iran. Iran needs their alliance and protection: It is the natural thing.

This delicate balance, in existence for nearly two centuries, and upset for only a very brief period will no doubt continue to govern Iran's relation with the western world. A further factor that may shed light on Iran's style in its foreign relations is its image of itself as a once magnificent civilisation that was later humbled by outsiders and, at least in part, explains its terrific hostility towards the Arabs in general and Iraq in particular — a hostility that will cause the Islamic Republic to secretly purchase weapons from the United States via Israel and to deal with the Soviet Union, considered atheist by it. It should be remembered that one of the avowed principles of the Iranian republican regime is to "liberate" Jerusalem from the invading Zionists and that it will not deal with America, called by it the "Great Satan."

This hostility to the Arabs is, in fact, a historical one antitimating Islam. It was Cyrus who allowed the Jews to return from Babylon in 538 B.C. to rebuild the Temple. It was Artaxerxes I who appointed Nehemiah governor of Jerusalem in 458 B.C. and allowed the erection of the Temple at Mount Jerezim and when Chosroes II conquered Palestine and Syria in 616 A.D., he was aided by 20,000

Jews who joined him. The ancient Persian-Israeli connection was revived with the Shah of Iran who until his de-thronement considered it a natural one and helps explain the recent sale of arms by and via Israel to Iran: two ostensible enemies. That the connection was blessed and condoned by the United States is also a natural consequence of the flow of history and circumstance. Once, the Shah was America's proxy policeman of the area to be helped by Israel. The Shah like his later successor the Imam had ambitions, some may call them delusions of a much bigger regional even international role. Israel too entertains such notions and with their common enmity and historical hostility to the Arabs the connection is a natural one. Flowing from this analysis should be the lesson that, proclaimed principles notwithstanding, common interest and shared hostility to the Arabs, are the bases forming what has come to be known as the "Iran-Iraq" affair though the "Iraq-Iraq" affair may be a better name. Added to this is the fact that the world in general and America in particular understand and appreciate the logic of power and success. We may not like to admit it but the Iranians, isolated and seemingly friendless, succeeded in forcing recognition of the logic of their aggression on the West. Unlike the Arabs they learned from the Israelis that "might" can be turned into "right"; money and justice notwithstanding. The Americans, Iranians and Israelis inhabit the same thought universe: a universe that we should learn to deal with. If in what I say there are tears, it is because someone hunted our soul. Surely without a soul mere numbers mean nothing.

Working together for peace

By Irene Ertinger

IT is only since the beginning of 1985 that a handful of Israeli Jews, by and large from the radical political left, have worked together with an equally slim number of Palestinians from the occupied territories to jointly protest against Israeli policies. Ironically, deep splits within the Committee Against the War in Lebanon (CAWL) and, on 8 June, breaking the taboo against staging protests while fighting was still going on, it launched Israel's first anti-war demonstration, which the police put down with violence. On June 26, CAWL brought 20,000 people out on the streets, including many adherents of Peace Now frustrated at the silence of their own leadership. This prompted Peace Now to organise an anti-war rally of 100,000 on 3 July. The protests culminated in September, with the 40,000-strong demonstration galvanised by Sabra and Shatila massacre.

There are at present three such organisations: the Committee to Confront the Iron Fist, the Alternative Information Centre (both Jerusalem-based) and a women's group in Gaza. In addition, a Hebrew language fortnightly, *Gesher* (The Bridge), is put together by a team of Palestinians and Israelis under the direction of Ziad Abu Zayad, formerly editor of *al-Fajr*. These organisations support one another and some of the members also assist campaigns undertaken by Jerusalem's Palestinian-directed Centre for the Study of Non-violence.

The Committee to Confront the Iron Fist is a successor to several purely Israeli peace groups, whose matrix was the Committee for Solidarity with Birzeit University. Formed to protest at the punitive closure of the West Bank university late in 1981, the committee, rather than dissolving when the university reopened, transferred its focus to the larger Arab-Israeli conflict. It was the first Israeli peace group to move its political activity to the occupied territories.

Palestinians from the territories and Israeli Jews who, early in 1985, agreed to form the Confront the Iron Fist Committee had come to the conclusion that the occupation would last a very long time. A common political platform for the new group, however, proved impossible to forge, not least because of ideological divergences within each of the two camps. What was agreed was the usefulness of dialogue and the urgency of stemming the repressive practices of Israel's "Iron fist" policy.

The committee's Palestinian spokesman, Faisal Husseini (head of the Arab Studies Society and under house arrest for five years) sees "coming to understand each other's mentality" as a vital preparation for the day when, he hopes, "Israelis will join Palestinians in forming a secular democratic state." For Husseini, the centre's main function is to become deeply disillusioned soon after the 1987 war. Israelis and Palestinians staffing the centre (most of whom are volunteers) see it as a hinge between the two societies, a place where they can share their experiences as political activists. But the centre's main function is to make public facts that are "alternative" to the image Israel strives to project. Recently, a daily and weekly news service, sent out by facsimile, has been organised. Warschawski is married to Lea Tsrori who, with Filica Langer, is one of the "two and a quarter"

ex-paratrooper, active in urging soldiers to refuse to serve in the territories and recently dismissed from the ministry of education for publishing criticisms of Israeli policies), takes issue with Husseini on ultimate goals. "Let's see how the Palestinians work out democracy in their own limited state before Israelis talk about merging with them." But some Israelis, reluctant even to recognise Palestinian rights to self-determination are, nevertheless, willing to join committee-organised protests against specific abuses to which Palestinians are subjected, among them, deportation, administrative detention, torture, house demolition and collective punishment.

The core of the Iron Fist Committee comprises some 30 Israelis and 30 Palestinians, with a support group in Tel Aviv. Time and time again, its members stage demonstrations; press conferences or travel to the territories to urge villagers to resist further land confiscation. The very fact that Jews are in the forefront of the demonstrations serves to protect the group from police brutality. In mid-November Faisal Husseini met with Anatoly Scharansky to try to enlist his aid in blocking the deportation, without trial, of *ash-Shaab* editor Akram Hanjani. Immediately attacked by right-wing politicians, Scharansky panicked and in press notices savaged the PLO and indirectly backed the expulsion. "It is sad to see such a great man turned so small," commented Husseini.

The Alternative Information Centre also began its activities early in 1985, founded by French-born Michael Warschawski, who had come to Israel in 1966 for theological training in Orthodox Judaism only to become deeply disillusioned soon after the 1967 war. Israelis and Palestinians staffing the centre (most of whom are volunteers) see it as a hinge between the two societies, a place where they can share their experiences as political activists. But the centre's main function is to make public facts that are "alternative" to the image Israel strives to project. Recently, a daily and weekly news service, sent out by facsimile, has been organised. Warschawski is married to Lea Tsrori who, with Filica Langer, is one of the "two and a quarter"

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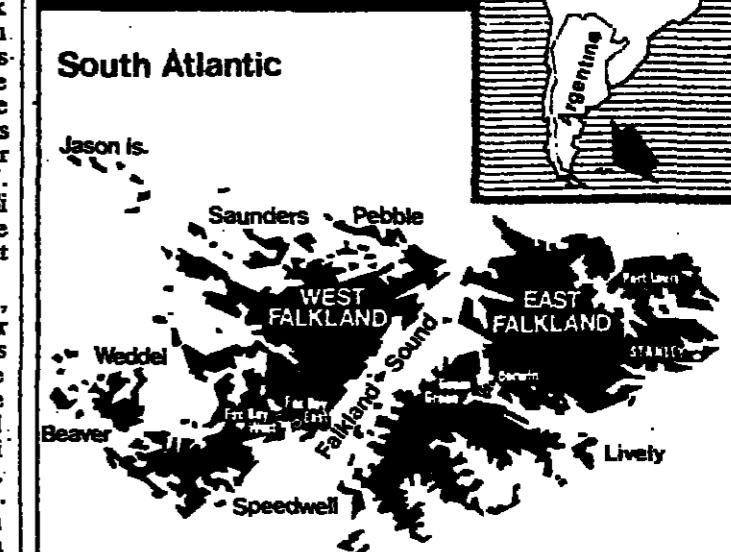
Gesher (The Bridge) started in July 1986 and is still having teething problems. Its staff of Palestinian and Israeli journalists, mostly part-time or freelance, is too small to engage in investigative journalism and so they must concentrate on adapting material published elsewhere. It has even been difficult to find Hebrew-language typists. "My father won't let me work with Arabs," reported two Jewish secretaries who had at first been willing to take the job. Jewish newsmen are reluctant to display the paper for fear of trouble from right-wingers. Subscriptions, therefore, are the main hope for increasing sales. The aim of the paper, according to its editor, Ziad Abu Zayad, is "to break down Israeli stereotypes about Arabs, to show them our human face. We hope to do by providing cultural, economic and political news not only of the territories but also of the Arab World."

Unfortunately, *Gesher*'s shaky beginning has been further marred by the publication of articles that contain serious factual errors (pointed out, with exasperation, by Israel Shahak, a veteran campaigner for human rights). Outspoken as usual, Shahak says of *Gesher*'s performance thus far: "It's worse than a crime, it's stupidity."

— Middle East International, London

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Britain pays dearly for Falkland's security

By Chris Peterson
Reuter

PORT STANLEY — Despite the millions of sterling being spent to secure the British-ruled Falkland Islands from future attacks, local residents still worry about their long-term future.

While Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government says it backs the right of the islanders to decide their own fate, the nagging question here is whether a mere 1,902 people can hope to survive indefinitely in the diplomatic stalemate between Britain and Argentina.

Next month a unilaterally-declared fishing conservation zone comes into effect, and some islanders fear Argentina, which has laid claim to the islands it calls Las Malvinas since 1833, will stage some kind of incident to test British resolve.

Since British troops forced occupying Argentine forces off the islands in a brief war in 1982, some £450 million (\$661 million) has been spent in building a vast airfield and barracks complex at Mount Pleasant, 50 kilometres west of Port Stanley.

Unofficial estimates put the cost of regaining the islands after 10 weeks of Argentine occupation at around £4.5 billion (\$6.8 billion), including replacement of warships and material lost in battle.

The annual sum being spent on defence of the Falklands is put at around £140 million (\$214 million), roughly the price of a new frigate. But that sum only reflects operational costs, with the cost of building Mount Pleasant being written off in accounting terms.

The operating costs include keeping four Phantom fighters on permanent alert, and around 2,000 troops and a royal navy frigate on station.

Britain has spent about £2.5 million (\$3.8 million) per islander preserving this unique society of sheep farms and roadless islands, 8,000 miles from London off the South American coast.

Alongside the cost factor is the continuing break in relations between London and Buenos Aires, and Britain's virtual isolation at the United Nations over the issue.

Thatcher has restated her government's determination to retain control and respect the islanders' wishes and is refusing outright to meet Argentina's demands for sovereignty talks.

That the islanders wish to stay British is evident from a drive around both the capital and a tour of the countryside, where British union flags flutter from virtually every home and settlement.

But many "Kelpers," as the islanders are called, see the reduction in British troop strengths, from an estimated 4,000 to around 2,000 or less, as a signal which could be wrongly interpreted by Buenos Aires as a weakening of British resolve.

They also fear the advent of a Labour government in Britain, which they believe would be more disposed to discuss the islands' future with Buenos Aires.

Labour's policy is that they would be prepared to hold discussions with Argentina, while at the same time bearing in mind the local residents' desire to remain a British colony.

Thatcher's administration is much more adamant: No discussion of sovereignty.

Although the government of President Raul Alfonsin has repeatedly said it wants the problem solved by diplomatic means, the islanders are still worried about a repeat of the invasion in 1982, when several thousand Argentine troops overwhelmed 80 British marines.

Apart from the United Nations, Britain is also facing pressure from her allies to take action. U.S. special envoy Philip Habib is expected in London this week, charged with trying to persuade Thatcher to soften her attitude.

British officials said London would continue to resist any proposals for talks about sovereignty.

The fishing conservation zone, covering waters 150 miles from the Falklands coastline, comes into effect on February 1.

From then licences will be needed and officials expect around 250 to be issued.

The British officials stress that they do not expect any problems.

But many islanders are convinced otherwise, using as their argument remarks made last October by Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo that the zone was intended to provoke "armed incidents."

Senior British officers on the islands say publicly that the military will not have a prominent role, leaving policing of the zone to the civilian police and ships.

But privately they accept that British frigates and reconnaissance aircraft will almost certainly become regularly involved.

From an economic point of view, life looks uncertain at best. Surveys by the Falkland Islands Development Council (FIDC), which channels British government financial help to islanders, economy which does not rely too heavily on sheep-farming at the past.

That the islanders wish to stay British is evident from a drive around both the capital and a tour of the countryside, where British union flags flutter from virtually every home and settlement.

But the tour operators have to work hard to persuade people to endure a 20-hour journey by British air force Tristar jet, and fairly basic living conditions.

Efforts to introduce an industry based on turning kelp — seaweed — into fertiliser founders, and the island's only brewery closed its doors last year when there was little or no demand for its Penquin ale.

AIDS is dimly perceived time bomb in Africa

By Michael Goldsmith
The Associated Press

KINSHASA, Zaire — The impoverished nations of central Africa remain reluctant to confront the deadly disease AIDS, even though it now endangers many in urban centre throughout the region.

Central African cities have some of the highest infection rates in the world for the incurable Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

Almost 6 per cent of the population has the AIDS virus in some places, researchers say. But governments are reluctant to admit to the problem and the true dimension of the disease remains hidden.

Zaire and other central African countries maintain a virtual silence on the disease, which destroys the body's immune system and makes the victim susceptible to a variety of illnesses.

Government officials admit privately that AIDS has become a major public health problem in central Africa. But publicly they play down the threat, partly because AIDS is considered a shameful disease, and partly because so many other diseases also threaten public health.

Doctors at the overcrowded Mama Yemo general hospital in

Kinshasa, Zaire, say they have recorded more than 300 AIDS deaths in the past six months. Yet official reports by Zaire's government list only 150 confirmed cases since the disease first appeared four years ago.

African governments, alerted by their own health services and the World Health Organization, have taken some action. But they still think of AIDS as a Western "white man's disease."

American homosexuals started it, so America has to help us get rid of it," said a health inspector at Kinshasa airport.

In fact, the scientific community is divided over how, where and when the disease was unleashed.

In Europe and North America, most AIDS victims are male homosexuals. But in Africa, the disease is transmitted mainly through heterosexual intercourse.

African women are stricken slightly more often than men. Many babies are infected by their mothers at birth and invariably die within months.

The official secrecy fuels rumours and superstition. In Bangui, an AIDS patient released from the general hospital was lynched by neighbours afraid of the infection.

Tests have shown up to 6 per cent of city dwellers in the central African region bear the AIDS virus and will remain potential

carriers of the disease the rest of their lives. One-third or more of those are likely to die as a result, doctors say.

Rural areas are less affected, because tribal moral standards remain strong. Some men have many wives, but in rural areas there is little extramarital promiscuity.

Africa's big cities present a different picture.

Kinshasa and Brazzaville, the capital of the Congo, face each other on opposite sides of the Congo river, their sprawling shantytowns overflowing.

The two cities have more than 6 million inhabitants, one of the largest urban centres in Africa. The area also has one of the highest known AIDS rates in the world.

In the neighbouring Central African Republic, Dr. Pierre Fendero, head of the public health service, said the increasing promiscuity among urban populations in black Africa "gives cause for very grave concern over a possibly explosive spread of AIDS in the next few years."

"There is a growing awareness of the threat, but some African governments are still not taking it seriously enough," Fendero said.

"A completely new approach is needed to publicise preventive measures and tracking down the apparently healthy carriers of the

disease."

Brazzaville is the WHO headquarters for Africa. Officials assemble AIDS reports from member governments and issue warnings on how to avoid infection.

But the centre must also deal with ever-present tropical diseases such as malaria, schistosomiasis and yellow fever, reducing the amount of time, money and effort it can spend on AIDS-related work.

Dr. Francois Hakizimana, head of the communicable diseases section at the WHO office, told a recent meeting of AIDS experts that more than 2 million people may be AIDS virus carriers in Africa.

Yet no African country has thus far set up a systematic epidemiological research programme on a nationwide scale.

Dr. Alain Georges, a Frenchman who is director of the Pasteur Institute's research laboratory in Bangui, the Central African Republic capital, has surveyed the AIDS rate in six central African countries.

"In a way, it's a stroke of luck that AIDS affects the United States, France and the rest of Europe," Georges said. "It means that we will ultimately get the billions of dollars that will be needed to find an answer. Africa alone could never drum up the money, no matter how many Africans died."

Also in Bangui, the government is trying to enlist the help of the country's hundreds of traditional healers to fight AIDS.

Former health minister Xavier Sylvestre Yasingonga summoned the medicine men recently to the

population infected, while 27 per cent of the city's prostitutes carry the AIDS virus.

WHO has urged all governments to promote the use of condoms to limit the spread of the disease. Condoms prevent the passage of the virus during sexual intercourse.

But many African countries still have laws against birth control that date to colonial times. Private pharmacies generally ignore these laws, but the use of condoms is limited to an affluent and educated minority.

In Bangui, French army Col. Jean Carre, medical advisor to the national government, said many African research centres are collaborating in the worldwide search for an AIDS vaccine and cure.

"We asked them to see what they could do about AIDS," he said. "I hope they will come up with something."

In Yaounde, capital of Cameroon, healer Bangui Kenta said he had a cure for AIDS that came in black powder.

"It's ground down from the bark of a tree," he said. "I can't tell you which tree, because that is a secret. I pour some of the powder into a glass of water, add a few drops of lemon juice and let the patient drink it. It works every time."

"White people just don't know how to deal with AIDS," he said.



The Rip Off — Thursday at 10:20

JTV Channel 2 Preview

Sat. — Jan. 24, 1987

Wed. — Jan. 28, 1987

8:30 Music Box

9:30 Dad's Army

A Soldier's Farewell

10:20 Feature Film

Hotel

Starring:

Rod Taylor

Catherine Spaak

Sun. — Jan. 25, 1987

8:30 Who's The Boss

9:10 Doc. — The Day the Universe Changed.

In the Light of the Above

A travel to the first great universities of Europe and the imposing 13th century Gothic cathedrals, and observing how the adoption of Greek learning gave rise to a conflict between the tenets of reason and faith.

9:10 Remington Steele

Steely in the Family

10:20 Feature Film

The Rip Off

Starring:

Lee Van Cleef

Karen Black

Edward Albert

Thur. — Jan. 29, 1987

8:30 Paul Daniels Show

Lots of magic and fun in the second episode of this series.

9:10 Remington Steele

Steely in the Family

10:20 Feature Film

Texas Lighting

Mon. — Jan. 26, 1987

8:30 No Place Like Home

9:10 Sandokan

10:20 Special programme

The Splendour of the Moguls

Woman and Warriors

Tue. — Jan. 27, 1987

8:30 Ever Decreasing Circles

Martin's wife goes to hospital, and the doctor advises her to stay a few more days for check up. Martin stays alone at home and goes on telling everybody that he can manage the household by himself.

9:00 Variety Show

10:20 The Fourth Arm

The training is tough and rigorous. The women are treated no differently from the men and all are relentlessly driven to achieve the peak of mental and physical fitness.

Wednesday — Jan. 28, 1987

8:30 Throb

My Fair Punka Lady

9:10 Falcon Crest

The Intruder

10:20 Paradise Postponed

The Wrongs of Man

Charlotte receives no help from her political husband in rehousing two local villagers in Tom Now's old cottage. She is learning that Leslie's ruthlessness affects her too. Fred is celebrating and, at last, appears to be over his love affair with Agnes. Dr. Salter has less to celebrate.

Thursday — Jan. 29, 1987

8:30 Ever Decreasing Circles

Martin's wife goes to hospital, and the doctor advises her to stay a few more days for check up. Martin stays alone at home and goes on telling everybody that he can manage the household by himself.

9:00 Variety Show

10:20 The Fourth Arm

The training is tough and rigorous. The women are treated no differently from the men and all are relentlessly driven to achieve the peak of mental and physical fitness.

Friday — Jan. 30, 1987

8:30 Throb

My Fair Punka Lady

9:10 Falcon Crest

The Intruder

10:20 Paradise Postponed

The Wrongs of Man

Saturday — Jan. 31, 1987

8:30 Ever Decreasing Circles

Martin's wife goes to hospital, and the doctor advises her to stay a few more days for check up. Martin stays alone at home and goes on telling everybody that he can manage the household by himself.

9:00 Variety Show

10:20 The Fourth Arm

The training is tough and rigorous. The women are treated no differently from the men and all are relentlessly driven to achieve the peak of mental and physical fitness.

Wednesday — Feb. 1, 1987

8:30 Throb

My Fair Punka Lady

9:10 Falcon Crest

The Intruder

10:20 Paradise Postponed

The Wrongs of Man

Thursday — Feb. 2, 1987

8:30 Throb

My Fair Punka Lady

9:10 Falcon Crest

The Intruder

10:20 Paradise Postponed

The Wrongs of Man

Friday — Feb. 3, 1987

8:30 Throb

My Fair Punka Lady

9:10 Falcon Crest

The Intruder

10:20 Paradise Postponed

The Wrongs of Man

Saturday — Feb. 4, 1987

8:30 Throb

My Fair Punka Lady

9:10 Falcon Crest

The Intruder

10:20 Paradise Postponed

The Wrongs of Man

Sunday — Feb. 5, 1987

8:30 Throb

My Fair Punka Lady

9:10 Falcon Crest

The Intruder

10:20 Paradise Postponed

The Wrongs of Man

Monday — Feb. 6, 1987

8:30 Throb

My Fair Punka Lady

9:10 Falcon Crest

The Intruder

10:20 Paradise Postponed

The Wrongs of Man

Tuesday — Feb. 7, 1987

8:30 Throb

My Fair Punka Lady

9:10 Falcon Crest

Another tennis giant falls at hands of Australian

MELBOURNE (R) — Australia's Pat Cash scored the second major upset of the Australian Open at Kooyong, beating world number one Ivan Lendl to secure a place in Sunday's final.

Cash, the eleventh seed, scored a 7-6, 5-7, 7-6, 6-4 win in a marathon four hour centre court struggle on Friday.

It was Cash's first win over top seeded Lendl in five encounters.

Lendl's loss means the tournament's two top seeds have fallen by the wayside.

Australias Wally Masur, beaten by titleholder Stefan Edberg 6-2, 6-4, 7-6 in the first semi-final Friday, ousted second seeded Boris Becker in a fourth round match Tuesday.

French and U.S. Open champion, Lendl could not break Cash's determination.

Ranked 24th in the world, Cash broke Lendl in the 10th game to wrap up the match after a Lendl forehand sailed wide.

He took the first and third set tiebreakers 7-1 and 7-5.

The 21-year-old Melbourne right-hander made his first Grand Slam final with the victory.

A disappointed Lendl, bidding for his first major grasscourt title, said he was disappointed he could not better return Cash's serves.

Liverpool, Arsenal advance in Littlewoods

LONDON (AP) — Ian Rush snatched a late winner to send Liverpool into the semifinal of the Littlewoods Challenge Cup (formerly Milk Cup) with a 1-0 triumph over neighbour Everton.

English League standings leader Arsenal joined Liverpool in the semifinal by beating

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Zamalek beats National in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Zamalek, the African Champions Cup holders, beat National, three-time winners of the African Cup Winners Cup, 1-0 Friday in an Egyptian League match to jump to the top of the table. Gamal Abd el Hafid scored for Zamalek in the last minute of the first half when a long cross from defender Hisham Yaken found him unmarked close to goal. The goal electrified the 70,000 fans in Cairo's international stadium but appeared to unnerve the players who resorted to rough play as the match became scrappy. French referee Michael Voutro booked six players, three from each team. The win put Zamalek on top of the 12-team table with 24 points, followed by National with 23.

Reagan bets cowboy hat on U.S. win

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan put up his favourite cowboy hat Thursday in a winner-take-all bet with Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke that the United States will reclaim yachting's top prize, the America's cup. Hawke accepted the challenge and put up an Australian bush hat, called an Akabroo. The New York Yacht Club lost the cup four years ago to the wing-keel Australia II of West Australian millionaire Alan Bond. In a best-of-seven series, American Dennis Connor's Stars and Stripes won the right to challenge Australia in this year's finals, beginning Jan. 31.

Platini indicted for tax evasion

LYON, France (AP) — Investigating magistrate Patrick Desnoue has announced the indictment of 20 people, including France's soccer captain Michel Platini, for their involvement in a tax evasion case when they were with the French St. Etienne soccer team. Roger Rocher and eight other members of the team's management were allegedly involved in making illegal payments to 11 players including Platini and team coach Robert Herbin. Officials of the Lyon public prosecutor's office maintain, however, that Desnoue has not proved that the players and Herbin knew of the illegal origin of the money, for which they paid the necessary income taxes after the existence of the secret fund was revealed. They have five days to appeal Desnoue's decision, and if they do so, a court will decide whether or not they should go to trial.

Angry fans attack Avellino players

AVELLINO, Italy (AP) — Angry fans invaded the training ground of Italian First Division soccer team Avellino and attacked Austrian striker Walter Schachner and Italian forward Sandro Tovarieri for their disappointing performances in recent championship matches. Eyewitnesses reported that Schachner and Tovarieri were kicked by a group of 20 men who stormed the Partenio Stadium during a Wednesday afternoon practice directed by Brazilian coach Vinicio. The club said the players were unharmed. Other fans insulted all team players and damaged the cars of Schachner and of Brazilian midfielder Dirceu, which were parked outside the stadium.

Biasion handed Monte Carlo win

MONTI CARLO (R) — Italy's Monti Biasion scored an extraordinary victory in the Monte Carlo Rally when Lancia team mate Juha Kankkunen of Finland sacrificed an impregnable lead by stopping on the final timed section.

Reigning world champion Kankkunen was leading by more than a minute when he halted his Lancia Delta 200 metres from the end of the 26th special section Thursday, enabling Biasion to pass.

This settled the outcome because third-placed West German Walter Roehrl and his Audi 200 Quattro were not in striking distance after Lancia had dominated the six-day 55th edition of the Monte Carlo Classic.

The Finn surrendered two minutes altogether and finished 59 seconds behind Biasion, with Roehrl four minutes 10 seconds behind.

Rally sources said the Lancia reversal had been ordered by the team management to compensate Biasion, who lost 39 seconds in Wednesday's 17th timed section because of a bad choice of tyres.

It was Lancia's eighth Monte Carlo victory since 1972 and second in succession following last year's win by Finland's Henri Toivonen, killed less than four months later in the Corsican Rally.

The deaths of Toivonen and co-driver Sergio Cresto prompted major changes in World Championship rules, outlawing the most powerful Group B cars and reducing the individual and

overall length of timed sections. Lancia Wednesday night weathered a protest by Japanese rival Mazda over the construction of its cars when the rally's sports commission rejected the claim that they did not conform with the rules.

The technical commission examined the Group A works cars of Kankkunen and Biasion as well as the privately-entered Group N production car of Frenchman Bertrand Balas to check six points of complaint by Mazda, including suspension, front bumper, wheel setting and ventilation.

Balas was later compensated by winning the Group N classification after Italian Lancia team-mate Alessandro Fiorio suffered a burst tyre in the eventful final stage in which Frenchman Jean Ragnotti's Renault became lodged between two snow banks and had to be manœuvred out.

Mazda sports director Achim Warmbold said he had nothing against Lancia. "It was a question of principle so the rules are clearly defined for the future," he said.

Lancia chief Cesare Fiorio accused Mazda, newcomers to the forefront of world rallying, of trying to discredit "a team which has been competing in rallies for more than 20 years."

Kankkunen won last year's drivers' title with French team Peugeot after its disqualification in the San Remo Rally had been overturned. The decision to annul the result gave the Finn the title at the expense of Lancia's Markku Alen.

Peugeot, team champion for the

second successive year in 1986, pulled out of the championship this year in protest against the Group B ban.

But Peugeot was celebrating in Senegal Thursday after Kankkunen's compatriot Ari Vatanen, the 1985 Monte Carlo victor who survived a dreadful accident in Argentina later that year, completed victory for it in the three-week Paris-Dakar Rally.

Fiorio said later Biasion and Kankkunen had agreed that whoever was quickest on Thursday's Turini pass section — traditionally a major feature — should be the final victor. Biasion clocked 20 minutes 16 seconds to Kankkunen's 20:33.

"At gap, when the two drivers were separated by only two seconds in Kankkunen's favour, I asked them to slow down to preserve their top two places against Roehrl," Fiorio said in reference to Tuesday night's standings.

"Before the start of the final stage the classification did not reflect the real hierarchy, so we sought a solution to allow the drivers to decide it. They agreed that the faster at Turini would be the final victor. Biasion achieved the better time, so it was he who won it."

Biasion said he had performed exceptionally on the Turini descent and believed he deserved victory. Kankkunen made no comment.

Third-placed Roehrl said: "The Italians will always surprise me. I really don't understand what's happening in rallying any more."

England downs Australia in World Series Cup

SYDNEY (R) — Allan Lamb hammered 18 runs from the first five deliveries of the last over as England pulled off a three-wicket win over Australia in a gripping finish to their day-night World Series Cup cricket match Thursday.

But it commands an enthusiastic following among Frenchmen.

The Peugeot team, which dropped out of the World Rally Championship after rule changes forced the powerful Group B cars, entered the Paris-Dakar run this year for the first time.

Peugeot had previously come to the event as more fit for showbusiness celebrities and royalty whose presence in previous years has dominated coverage.

Vatanen began the rally with an ignominious breakdown at the start which forced him to finish the preliminary trial on three wheels after a suspension failure in the mud near Paris.

Second-placed Zanirolli

reckoned he missed a chance to

pass Catanen in Mauritania.

England, his dashing form in one-day matches again contrasting sharply to his poor record in the recent Ashes tests, took full advantage to sweep England home at 234 for seven with one ball to spare.

England's success put it top of the triangular tournament table with four points — two ahead of Australia after three matches each.

England, having lost to Australia by 11 runs in Brisbane on Sunday, seemed set for swift revenge when Lamb and Ian Botham were sharing a fifth wicket stand of 43 in less than eight overs that lifted the score to 186 to four.

But the uneven nature of England's batting continued when medium-pacer Steve Waugh bowled Botham for 27 to start a slump in which John Emburey and Jack Richards fell cheaply, reducing the touring side to 202 for seven.

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Cinema
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Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

RAGHADAN
Cinema
Tel: 622198
JAAL
Performances 12:15, 3:00, 5:00, 9:45

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.
One sterling 1.5257/67
One U.S. dollar 1.3594/99
1.8155/65
2.0442/52
1.5235/50
37.65/70
6.0675/0725
1289/1291
152.10/20
6.5000/50
7.05/0/50
6.8750/8800
One ounce of gold 406.10/406.60
U.S. dollars
Canadian dollars
West German marks
Dutch guilders
Swiss francs
Belgian francs
French francs
Italian lire
Japanese yen
Swedish crowns
Norwegian crowns
Danish crowns
U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices moved ahead again in later trading after a midsession lull, as Wall Street built upon Thursday's biggest ever single day advance at the opening Friday, dealers said.

Internationally traded shares were leading the wider market higher as cash spilling over from the surging New York market continued to flood into stocks favoured by U.S. investors.

But dealers noted that Friday's advances were fairly narrowly based and partly exaggerated by modest trading volume. Glaxo raced ahead on U.S. support to 47p up at 1.235p.

The session got off to a fairly slow start with some buyers initially deterred by an opinion poll giving the opposition Labour Party a five point lead over the ruling Conservatives.

This initially sent sterling and government bonds sharply lower, but gains later rallied on the belief that the earlier declines of up to 1% point were overdone.

Dealers said trading has been sluggish throughout the session with Thursday's optimism on the Bundesbank's discount rate cut giving way to scepticism whether U.S. clearing bank base rates will be lowered in the near future.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, JAN. 24, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today try some new approach at whatever you wish to do. Plan to expand, but know that you are limited by the duties and activities you have already set up.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You can solve a private affair nicely. Please your mate by completing the tasks you have started.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) A good pal will do something helpful for you. Postpone a social affair since arguments lurk there.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) If you get an early start on your work it should go along very smoothly. You are inspired today and will make progress.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Make appointments for the evening's pleasure. Try to perfect some talent and be noticed.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Carry through with your obligations in a most precise manner. Avoid one who may be jealous of your position.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Take time to send a message to one who is depressed and needs a boost. Improve your health.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A business matter can be handled very easily. Don't contact older persons who can bring you down today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You make headway toward your goals today, but don't go overboard with some financial matter.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Today is fine for handling home affairs. Enjoy hobby tonight and repair any possible sadness.

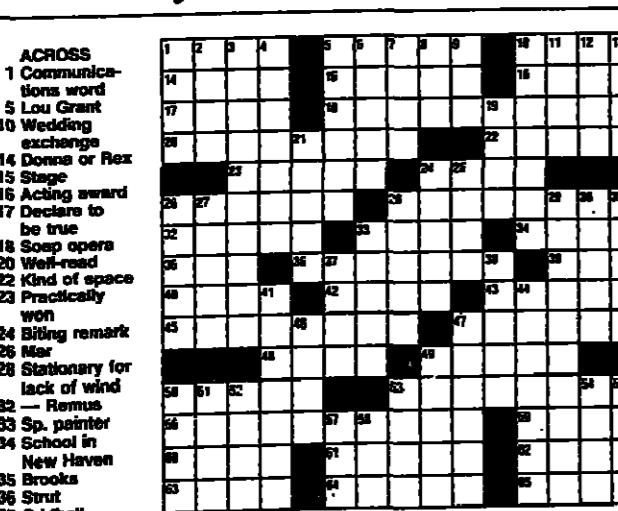
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Get your shopping done early since you will have to handle some unexpected situation today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You can handle material affairs easily, but avoid one who wastes your time. Get busy with favorable activiti es.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Study your personal signs and go after them. Steer clear of arguments in the outside world.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be eager to learn the right principles for living, so be sure to lay down the basic rules. Teach this one to be more objective in order to gain the greatest amount of happiness. Sports will be good for your progeny and will insure a good start in life.

THE Daily Crossword



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

5 — In the Sun	SAND	CORIBS	FRAS
6 Seaside	ALEE	OVERT	LIRBY
7 Kind of bean	IDEA	MAINTEN	ANKA
8 Vans letters	LORD	PINTER	BRINSEEN
9 Car of old	FAIR	PORTS	NEEDS
10 With gibbons	RAIL	SABRE	AID
11 Little piece	THE	PRINCE	ERI
12 Mata	CRYSTAL	SHIPS	STEM
13 Crystal gazer	ROMAN	PLAID	TOAST
18 Roman meeting	STAT	THIS	OPPORTUNI
places	IDEA	IDEAS	TIRES
21 Seives food	NEEDS	OPPORTUNI	TIRES
24 See hazard	FAIR	TIRES	TIRES
25 Ent' —	RAIL	OPPORTUNI	TIRES
26 Discreet	THE	TIRES	TIRES
27 Mouth in	CRYSTAL	TIRES	TIRES
28 Commence	ROMAN	TIRES	TIRES
29 Nobis	STAT	TIRES	TIRES
30 Skip away from	IDEA	TIRES	TIRES
31 Inhibit	NEEDS	TIRES	TIRES
32 Chef s.g.	FAIR	TIRES	TIRES
33 Singing	RAIL	TIRES	TIRES
34 Milk conc.	THE	TIRES	TIRES
35 Cordelia's father	CRYSTAL	TIRES	TIRES
36 Sovereignty	ROMAN	TIRES	TIRES
37 id est	STAT	TIRES	TIRES
38 Palmar heel	IDEA	TIRES	TIRES
39 Tarsal	NEEDS	TIRES	TIRES
40 Footh weakness	FAIR	TIRES	TIRES
41 Painter heel	RAIL	TIRES	TIRES
42 Drop sharply	THE	TIRES	TIRES

USSR agrees to cut oil exports

OSLO (R) — Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hisham Nazer said Thursday the Soviet Union has agreed to cut its oil exports by seven per cent to back OPEC's efforts to maintain oil prices at around \$18 a barrel.

Sheikh Nazer, speaking to reporters on his arrival in Norway from Moscow, said: "Moscow is willing to cut ... by seven per cent." He added he was very pleased with progress he made during his visit to the Soviet Union.

Sheikh Nazer, a key minister in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), arrived in Oslo for talks with Norwegian Oil Minister Arne Oeien after visiting Egypt and Moscow.

Earlier, Soviet foreign ministry spokesman, Mr. Gennady Gerasimov, told a news conference in Moscow the Kremlin was interested in stabilising oil prices. "As a result of our talks with the Saudi minister, we are cutting back our oil exports a little further," he added.

Sheikh Nazer, the first Saudi Arabian minister to visit Moscow since 1982, had held talks with Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and senior trade officials during his stay in the Soviet Union.

The Saudi minister has been touring the three non-OPEC

nations, which jointly produce some 14 million barrels per day (b/d), explaining the 13-nation group's oil production and pricing policies and seeking backing.

Egypt agreed on Jan. 15 to cut its output by 70,000 b/d, and Norway, a major North Sea producer, had already announced it would cooperate with OPEC by cutting production by 7.5 per cent for the first six months of 1987.

OPEC decided in December on twin measures to cut group output by 7.25 per cent to 15.8 million b/d, and to set fixed prices around a base level of \$18 per barrel.

Since the meeting, spot market crude prices have risen by about \$3 to current levels just above \$18.

Sheikh Nazer, appointed Saudi oil minister last month after the surprise sacking of veteran OPEC architect Ahmad Zaki Yamani, will travel to London from Oslo on Saturday. Norwegian officials said, although it was not known if he will meet any British government representatives.

Britain, the biggest North Sea producer with output of around 2.4 million b/d has consistently rejected any cooperation with OPEC, saying oil prices should be decided by market forces.

While in Oslo, Sheikh Nazer is scheduled to hold talks with Mr. Oeien, Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland and Foreign Minister Kaut Fydrylund.

Mr. Oeien told reporters he

expected Sheikh Nazer to ask Norway to consider adopting a fixed oil pricing system, but he said such a system was not practical for Norway.

As for the Soviet Union oil export cut Mr. Gerasimov gave no details on the size but made clear Moscow was worried about the effect of the drop in world prices on Soviet foreign trade.

"The fall in oil prices has adversely affected our foreign trade balance," the spokesman said. "Of course we would like to see prices stabilised."

Oil is the Soviet Union's main export earner, bringing in some 60 per cent of the hard currency needed by Moscow to purchase grain, technology and equipment on Western markets.

According to figures released by the Central Statistics Board, Soviet foreign trade turnover fell by eight per cent in 1986 in a decline blamed by Soviet officials on the oil price drop.

Analysts said that while the export cut would reduce Soviet earnings in the short term, if oil producers joined forces to hold back supplies to the market this would lead to higher prices and greater earnings for all in the long term.

Moscow made a similar gesture after Iranian oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh visited last August, agreeing to cut its exports to Western Europe by eight to nine per cent.

Mr. Alencar said the Brazilian deal involved the rescheduling of \$3.3 billion of principal and interest due in 1985 and 1986 over six years with a three-year grace period and \$348 million in penalty charges. He said payment would be made in three six-monthly instalments beginning in June 1988.

The club also granted a rescheduling of principal due in the first half of this year amounting to about \$500 million, also over six years with three years 60 per cent of interest.

Mr. Ongpin had said the amount involved could be between \$800 million and \$1 billion.

Earlier the Paris Club reached a rescheduling agreement with Brazil, the biggest Third World debtor.

Diplomatic sources said the talks, which began Thursday and ended early Friday morning, were held in a relaxed atmosphere with political factors strongly in favour of an accord.

They said the United States and Japan particularly wished to show support for the government of President Corazon Aquino.

The French finance ministry said representatives of the participating nations welcomed efforts at economic recovery taken by the government of the Philippines.

They also noted with satisfaction the implementation by the government of an economic and financial programme supported by a standby arrangement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved by the board of the fund on Oct. 24 last year.

As for Brazil, the deal rescheduled \$4.12 billion of repayments, according to Brazil's chief debt negotiator, Mr. Alvaro Alencar.

The agreement covered principal and interest payments due in the two and a half years to mid-1987. It was reached without a formal IMF economic reform and standby credit accord.

"Brazil is the first country to get such an agreement without an IMF accord," Mr. Alencar told a news conference. "It is satisfactory overall," he added.

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The recommendations were prepared by a panel headed by Sir Patrick Neill, a lawyer and vice chancellor of Oxford University.

They are not binding, but Lloyd's said it would consider them all. It said the report was

Accord halts dollar's fall

LONDON (R) — The dollar was steadied Friday in the foreign exchanges by a Tokyo television report which said Japan and the United States did, after all, agree Thursday to intervene jointly to support it.

Around noon Friday in London it was worth around 1.8150 West German marks and 152 yen, about where it ended in New York Thursday night. On Monday, it hit an all-time low of 149.98 yen.

The gold price eased. It was set in London Friday morning at \$403.55 an ounce after closing Thursday night at \$408.75. Dealers said there was gold selling from the Middle East.

European dealers expect currency markets to be quieter after the dollar's slide earlier last

week. They said underlying sentiment was bearish because the market still felt the Reagan administration wanted a weaker dollar, to make U.S. exports more competitive and thereby help correct the huge U.S. trade deficit.

But a report by Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHC) that Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker did, after all, agree on joint intervention when they met in Washington Thursday made dealers cautious.

The dollar slid Thursday when other reports suggested that Mr. Miyazawa did not get an explicit pledge on that from Mr. Baker.

Mr. Baker said Thursday that no one wanted "a free-fall of the dollar" — a comment which led some Washington analysts to believe the dollar slide would not be allowed to go unchecked.

But a key question is: How weak the dollar would have to be to get the United States to help prop it up?

Nations such as Japan and West Germany, whose currencies are appreciating, are feeling the pinch as their exports rise in price, and the president of the European Community Commission, Mr. Jacques Delors, accused the United States Thursday of "blackmail" over the way the

club also granted a rescheduling of principal due in the first half of this year amounting to about \$500 million, also over six years with three years 60 per cent of interest.

The French finance ministry said the deal had been granted as Brazil had committed itself to come up to date on all its debt repayments to creditor governments from July 1, 1987.

Brazil, which owes Paris Club governments about \$9 billion out of total foreign debts of some \$109 billion, had its request granted on the arrears but had sought the rescheduling of all 1987 due payments amounting to some \$3.2 billion, diplomatic sources said.

They said the creditor governments, recognising Brazil's precarious economic situation, had accepted without much argument a need to reschedule its arrears without an IMF accord.

"This agreement does not foresee any agreement with the IMF other than the concept of regular and enhanced contacts with the fund," Mr. Alencar said, adding that Brazil would also have to supply the Paris Club with details of accords reached with other creditors such as the World Bank.

The recommendations came in a much-awaited report — the result of the first government inquiry into Lloyd's of its near 50-year history — which urged Lloyd's to overhaul itself but stopped short of calling for statutory regulation of the insurance market.

The recommendations were prepared by a panel headed by Sir Patrick Neill, a lawyer and vice chancellor of Oxford University.

They are not binding, but Lloyd's said it would consider them all. It said the report was

welcome, balanced and as-expected.

The report said the need for this change was confirmed by the failure of Lloyd's to introduce a register of agents' charges by July 1984 — which parliament had

sought

Threat to starve Manila follows death of protesting farmworkers

MANILA (R) — A key Philippine government peace negotiator quit Friday in protest against the killing of 12 demonstrators by troops and a farmworkers' leader vowed to lead a strike that would starve Manila.

The 12 demonstrators died and more than 100 were wounded Thursday when 10,000 peasants demanding land reform tried to surge through 1,000 police and marines guarding a bridge leading to Manila's presidential palace.

The troops fired first in the air and then at the demonstrators, witnesses said.

Armed Forces Chief Fidel Ramos said Friday the troops over-reacted and ordered maximum tolerance for future demonstrations. But Defence Minister Rafael Italo said: "Sometimes we have to show force."

It was the highest death toll ever recorded at Mendiola Bridge, a concrete slab over a stagnant pool of water that during the rule

of ousted strongman Ferdinand Marcos was the scene of many bloody protests.

In 1983, 11 people were killed at the bridge in a protest against the murder of President Corazon Aquino's husband, Benigno.

Maria Diokno, one of the government's three negotiators with Communist rebel leaders in peace talks aimed at ending an 18-year war in the Philippine countryside, said Friday she had resigned in protest against the killings.

She said she was finding it increasingly difficult to defend the government and that the shootings were indefensible.

"The responsibility for the deaths and injuries rests heavily

on the shoulders of the government," she said.

Partly as a result of the violence, the peace talks were indefinitely suspended Thursday. Most observers doubt they will resume before a 60-day ceasefire expires on Feb. 8.

The leader of Thursday's protest, Jaime Tadeo, head of the Peasant Movement of the Philippines, told reporters his followers would refuse to plant crops and that Manila would be starved.

He gave no date for the start of the protest action, but said: "We are getting ready for a farm strike." His group claims 700,000 members.

An aide said the strike could be followed by the erection of barricades blocking roads leading into Manila to prevent food from reaching the capital and confiscation of food stocks in farm owners' warehouses.

Ousted Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile said in a statement

that Mrs. Aquino could have prevented the carnage by talking to the protest's leaders.

He also criticised her for not acting as the country's commander-in-chief, saying she should have stayed in the palace and given troops instructions.

Former national legislator Homobono Adaza, a one-time Aquino friend turned bitter foe, made public what he said were tape-recorded telephone conversations between Mrs. Aquino and key advisers dealing with the future of U.S. military bases.

In one conversation, presidential counsel Teodoro Locsin claimed that the Americans were working through him to exert influence on a supposedly independent commission drafting the new Philippine constitution.

Presidential spokesman Teodoro Benigno refused comment on the tape.

U.K. Labour leads in latest poll

LONDON (R) — Britain's opposition Labour Party has made a strong comeback in the latest opinion poll released Friday, gaining more than 13 points from last month to take a five-per-cent lead over the ruling Conservatives.

The official China Youth News said in an editorial that although Chinese students had a "glorious revolutionary tradition," that did not mean they could take to the streets whenever they wanted.

The first pre-condition for economic construction is a situation of stability and unity.

Marches and demonstrations are not suitable methods to use against the people's own government and do not benefit stability and unity," the paper said.

Meanwhile

China's university

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Two prominent intellectuals have been expelled from the party

Hu to become chief of advisory body

PEKING (R) — Hu Yaobang, who resigned in disgrace as chief of China's Communist Party a week ago, is expected to be made chief of an advisory body as a face-saving gesture. Chinese sources said Friday.

They said Mr. Hu would be made chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), a body that has no real power but groups distinguished non-Communists as party members.

Mr. Hu will replace the current chairman, Deng Yinghao, widow of ex-Premier Chou Enlai, who will retire due to old age, the sources said. She will be 83 this year and is accompanied by nurses when she appears in public.

Mr. Hu resigned in disgrace after reportedly being accused of aiding the spread of "bourgeois liberalism," a phrase used to denounce ideas inspired by Western-style democracy and proposals that would reduce the power of the Communist Party.

"The CPPCC is largely a propaganda weapon aimed at uniting non-Communists and especially Taiwan behind the party," one source said. "Hu is well suited to be its chief. He is very sociable and persuasive."

China has made repeated overtures to the Nationalist government of Taiwan to persuade it to re-unite with Peking, but all have been spurned.

Mr. Hu was replaced as acting party chief last Friday by Premier Zhao Ziyang, who currently holds both posts, after nationwide students protests for democracy in December.

Meanwhile, China's university students were Friday told not to repeat their demonstrations of last month to follow the Communist Party and devote their energies to making China a strong socialist nation.

Two prominent intellectuals have been expelled from the party

Ecuadorian president rejects resignation call

QUITO (R) — Ecuadorian President Leon Febres Cordero has rejected a congressional call to resign, hoping to ride out the storm surrounding his abduction by air force commandos.

But the crisis has left open wounds and seriously undermined the authority of the 55-year-old conservative millionaire president.

"I will not resign the constitutional presidency of the republic because the resolution sent is irrelevant, antidemocratic and lacks any legal or moral force," Mr. Febres Cordero said in a letter to Congress President Andres Vallejo Thursday night.

Ecuador's congress, in a 38-29 vote early Thursday, called on the president to quit in favour of Vice-President Blasco

Aspin reelected House Armed Services Committee chairman

WASHINGTON (AP) — Representative Les Aspin was reelected as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, reversing an earlier defeat and ending two weeks of campaigning for the top job on the panel which oversees the Defence Department.

Aspin won two years ago by appealing to Democratic liberals, who supported him in the belief he

would back their positions. But they were angered when he voted for the MX missile and aid to Nicaraguan rebels, two programmes of Republican President Ronald Reagan's administration.

Aspin won a 133-116 victory over Representative Marvin Leath on Thursday in the last of a series of votes by House Democrats.

People of EC nations optimistic about future

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — People in the 12 member nations of the European Community are more optimistic about their future than at any time this decade, according to an EC-sponsored poll.

The survey results also said support for the economic and political unification of Western Europe was continuing to increase.

The results appeared to confirm recent indications that a broad-based recovery of the European economy, coupled with new efforts to improve the workings of the EC, have lifted public spirits.

"Public opinion has turned its back on Euro-pessimism without, however, wholeheartedly committing itself to Euro-optimism," a survey summary said.

Weinberger opposes troop withdrawal from Europe

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Proposals that the United States withdraw some of its troops from Europe are ill-conceived and patently dangerous because such a move "would encourage Soviet aggression," Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger has said.

"Western Europe is freedom's front line and by far the greatest attraction for Soviet ambitions," Mr. Weinberger declared in remarks prepared for the Denver Rotary Club.

"The United States could not live in a world in which Western Europe was overrun by the Soviet hordes. We station troops in Europe because it is in our interest to do so."

Mr. Weinberger's speech, copies of which were released at the Pentagon, was prompted by a series of recent hearings before the Senate Armed Services Committee on U.S. military strategy.

Committee on U.S. military strategy, the panel has received conflicting advice about the wisdom of maintaining the current forces of 350,000 American troops in Europe.

Zbigniew Brzezinski, who was national security adviser to former President Jimmy Carter, testified last week that up to 100,000 of those troops should be transferred to Central Command — which is designed to protect U.S. interests in the Gulf area — to reflect changes in the world over the past four decades.

Although Mr. Weinberger throughout the past six years has made clear his support for the current level of U.S. troop strength in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), his speech Thursday contained an unusually harsh denunciation of

calls for withdrawal.

Beyond the threat to the West's security, the defence secretary accused the critics of undermining arms control and troop reduction negotiations with the Soviet Union.

"That is why the timing of recent calls for these withdrawals could not be worse, since the U.S. and NATO are about to embark on comprehensive negotiations with the Warsaw Pact on conventional force reductions," he said.

In justifying current troop levels, Mr. Weinberger said Europe "has become more — not less — important to the security and well-being of America" over the past 40 years.

"The European and North American economies are now so tightly knit together that neither can grow without the other," he said.

Moreover, he said, the Soviets and their Warsaw Pact allies enjoy a massive advantage over NATO forces in the size of their conventional armies.

"And we must recognise that our allies ... are making a great contribution to the common defence than many people realise," he said. "For example, the non-U.S. NATO members maintain 3.5 million personnel on active duty, compared to a little over 2 million for the United States."

Worse still, the proposal to withdraw troops makes no sense economically, Mr. Weinberger said. It would cost \$500 million just to transport the 100,000 troops home and another \$4.7 billion to build facilities for them in the United States, he said.

The foregoing does not mean you must use a forcing no trump response. You can employ a two-over-one response as forcing to game, and so make your constructive auctions easier — no one has to jump last his partner drop him short of game. Invitational auctions all start with a forcing no trump response. Also, the convention allows users to differentiate between three- and four-card support for opener's major suit.

On those hands where one no trump is the correct contract, you can't be sure the opponents will let you play there. Modern bridge has become very aggressive, and it is very likely the opponents will be in the auction so that it won't die at no trump.

The foregoing does not mean you must use a forcing no trump response, particularly in a minor suit. If partner doesn't have a second suit, he bids his cheaper three-card minor. That still leaves responder the right to correct back to the major on hands where he has a doubleton in the opener's major and no particular fit for second suit, secure in the knowledge that they have seven trumps in the combined hold-

Poll shows Americans believe Reagan is lying

WASHINGTON (R) — With the U.S. presidential election less than two years away, a new public opinion poll shows that most Americans now think President Reagan has been lying about the Iran arms scandal.

The affair gripping Washington is severely damaging Mr. Reagan's credibility, and independent analysts and election strategists say they have a strong sense the pendulum is swinging back toward the Democrats after six years of conservative Republican rule under Mr. Reagan.

The Washington Post and the ABC Television Network said 56 per cent of the people they surveyed believed Mr. Reagan had lied about details of the U.S. arms sales.

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The poll showed 42 per cent believed Mr. Reagan's denial that he knew of the diversion in advance, according to the poll.

The Washington Post said 1,500 people were polled, a large enough sample to reflect within three per cent the opinion of the U.S. adult population.

The first primary election balloting is a year off, but the Iran arms scandal has already altered the odds on the 1988 presidential contest.

Republican analyst Kevin Phillips said flatly that the Democrats now must be favourites to win the presidency in 1988.

He said recent polls show more Americans call themselves Democrats than Republicans, ending a brief period of parity that sales to Iran.

Kabul government 'to give up power if voted out'

NEW DELHI (R) — Afghanistan's ruling Communist Party will relinquish power if it is rejected in national elections, the country's ambassador in India said Friday.

But he declined to say how soon elections would be held to test the party's support.

Speaking at a news conference at the Afghan embassy here, Ambassador Abdul Samad Azhar said a call by the Kabul government last month for national reconciliation was "so that all those who are interested and have a platform can help to build the new Afghanistan."

He said Kabul's offer to talk to all Afghan groups extended to those outside the country. Asked whether his government was even prepared to meet the seven-party opposition alliance based in Peshawar in neighbouring Pakistan, he replied: "Yes, we are prepared."

He added that delegations from these parties would be given a "complete security and guarantees."

The Pakistan-based guerrilla alliance has rejected a reconciliation and a ceasefire call by Afghan leader Najib.

The ambassador said there was

nothing in the programme of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) that was "against the ideology of opposition groups who could be recognised as patriots."

Asked whether the PDPA would ever be prepared to hand over power to these if democratically ousted, he said: "If the people reject us, we will give up, but we are sure that the PDPA has so much influence and strong roots in our people that they will support their ruling party."

Pressed about when elections might be held in Afghanistan, and whether they would be on an independently-supervised, multi-party basis, Mr. Azhar said: "This depends on the coming constitution. The process (of completing the constitution) was delayed because we wanted to give the opposition a chance to express views or send proposals or talk directly to us."

Reports from the United Nations said talks on peace in Afghanistan scheduled for Feb. 11 in Geneva might be postponed.

Mr. Azhar stressed that this was at Pakistan's request and that "Afghanistan has not asked for more time."

Friends celebrate Al Capone's birthday

CHICAGO (AP) — It wasn't your typical birthday party. The centrepiece was a Thompson submachine gun, the birthday boy had been dead for nearly 40 years, and the hostess's father regarded the guests with tales of his own criminal past.

The party Wednesday night in the back room of Schuhens' restaurant and saloon marked the 88th birthday of Al Capone, who died of syphilis in 1947. Far from deplored Chicago's image as a 1920s gangland battlefield and hoisted of civic corruption, the partygoers revelled in it. Liquor was served in teacups, and guests played the "Al Capone trivia game."

Prince Philip disappointed by son

LONDON (R) — Britain's Prince Philip wrote a letter to the royal marines commander expressing his disappointment over the decision by his son Prince Edward to quit the elite commando force, the Sun tabloid has reported. The newspaper said Prince Philip told General Sir Michael Wilkins that 22-year-old Prince Edward now faced a "very difficult problem of adjustment" after quitting the year-long officers' training course. Prince Edward, youngest son of Queen Elizabeth and fifth in line to the throne, announced he would leave the corps on January 12 in a dramatic break with the traditional military career of male members of the royal family.

Weinberger's plane struck by lightning

WASHINGTON (R) — A small jet carrying Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger and his wife was hit by lightning near Andrews air force base last Sunday, but landed safely despite instrument damage, Pentagon officials have said. The officials told Reuters the twin-engine C-20A was hit by a lightning bolt about 16 miles south of the base